



## **2013 Hate and Bias Report**

### **Introduction**

In accordance with the City of Eugene's Hate and Bias Incident Response Plan, the Equity and Human Rights Office (EHRO) provides victim and community support for both bias crimes and non-criminal bias incidents, along with tracking and reporting of hate activity. Hate and bias activity are reported to the EHRO in a variety of ways, including victim or witness initiated contact, referral from community agencies, and referral from other City departments such as the Eugene Police Department (EPD).

Bias crimes can include all classes of crime motivated by bias or prejudice based on actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. In addition to statutory reporting of state and federally classified hate crimes, EPD also tracks bias-related crimes motivated by perceived or actual age, economic status, social status, citizenship, marital status, or political affiliation or beliefs, membership or activity in or on behalf of a labor organization or against a labor organization to monitor community relations.

This is the second annual report focusing on hate and bias incidents and response which has been compiled through partnership between the EHRO and EPD. The data collection methodology and format of reporting has been replicated from the 2012 report which serves as a baseline for evaluation of hate and bias activity.

This report covers January through December of 2013. In total there were 55 bias crimes and non-criminal incidents reported in 2013.

### **Non- Criminal Bias Incidents**

There are many behaviors and attitudes that, while not criminal, have a detrimental impact on our community. Often, the non-criminal incidents reported to the Equity and Human Rights Office fall under the protections of free speech. However, when appropriate Equity and Human Rights staff in cooperation with the Human Rights Commission and community allies provide support and engage in the important work of tracking and making visible this type of activity. The goal is to project a clear message that hatred and bigotry

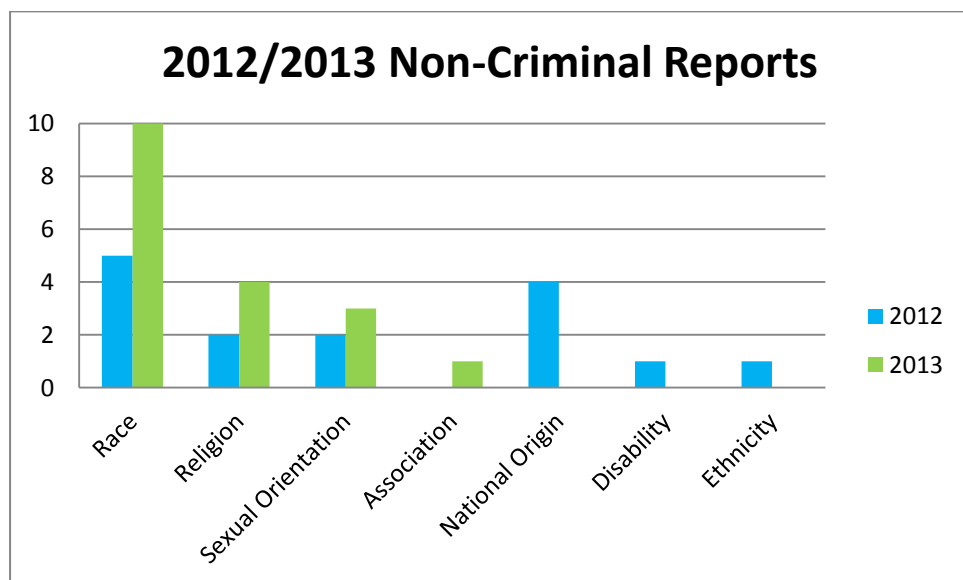
are not acceptable, to stand in solidarity with impacted communities, and increase safety and inclusivity in Eugene.

There were a total of 18 non-criminal bias incidents reported to the Equity and Human Rights Office in 2013. Race was the most frequently reported motivating factor. In regards to race, all but two reports specifically targeted African Americans. Most of the activity reported involving religion was anti-Semitic in nature. However, there was also some serious activity reported involving the targeting of Muslim women and various Christian groups. Several of the reports made to the Equity and Human Rights Office may have been criminal in nature but the victims or witnesses refused to file police reports and so these reports have been captured in the non-criminal numbers.

<b>2013 Non-Criminal Reports Total</b>	<b>18</b>
Race	10
Religion	4
Sexual Orientation	3
Association	1

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For the sake of comparison, there were 15 non-criminal bias incidents reported in 2012 to the Equity and Human Rights Office. Reported activity related to race and religion in 2013 was double the 2012 reports. Non-criminal incidents reported involving sexual orientation as a motivating factor were only marginally higher than in 2012.



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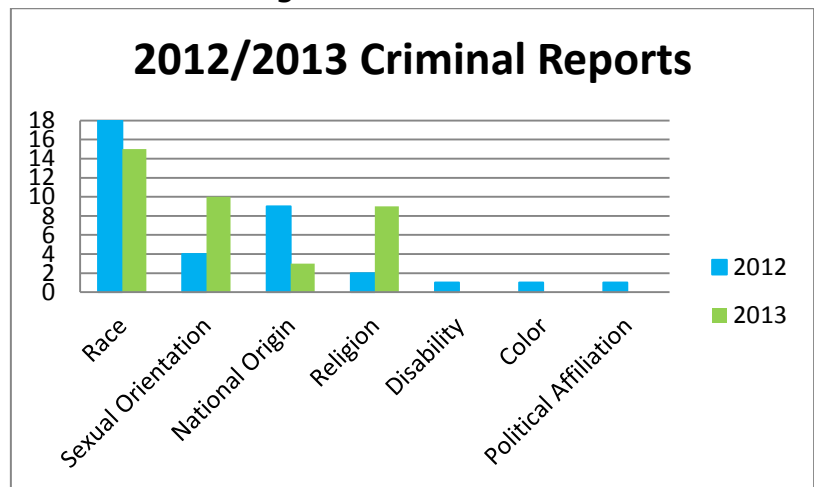
## Bias Crimes

During 2013, 37 criminal bias incidents were reported to the Eugene Police Department. In a few of these situations more than one criminal charge was associated with a single event. For the purposes of this table the event as a whole has been counted as opposed to individual charges. As a result of investigation, two of these complaints were deemed unfounded and in nine cases arrests were made.

2013 Criminal Reports Total	37
Race	15
Sexual Orientation	10
Religion	9
National Origin	3

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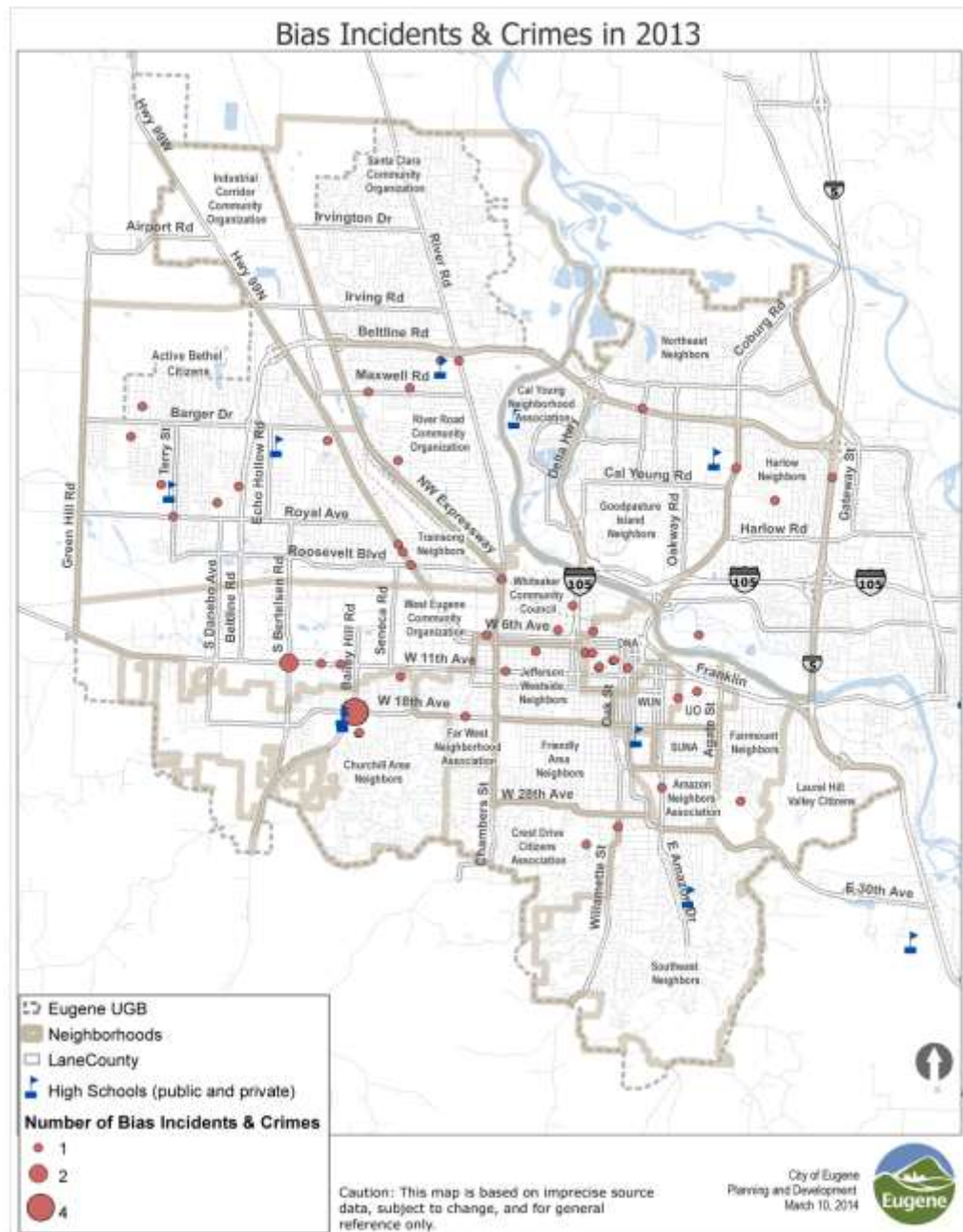
By comparison, there were 36 criminal bias incidents reported in 2012. Race was still the leading factor however there were more than twice as many crimes related to sexual orientation and religion reported in 2013 and far fewer crimes reported related to national origin.



The most common bias crime charge was Intimidation 2 accounting for roughly 30% of criminal charges in 2013<sup>vi</sup>. Often when language or activity goes beyond the protections of free speech it becomes criminal intimidation. In 2013 bias related Criminal Mischief<sup>vii</sup> was much more frequently reported than in years past, accounting for about 20% of bias crime charges. Almost all of the crimes motivated by religion were Criminal Mischief. On the other hand there were three misdemeanor assaults and one felony assault reported as bias crimes. Race and sexual orientation were the two protected classes that reported assaults.

## Geographic Distribution

The geographic distribution of this activity is also worth noting. There was hate and bias activity reported throughout the city. However, there was more concentration of reported incidents in the downtown core and the Churchill area. There was a much higher incidence of activity reported in the Bethel area in 2013 compared to 2012, and less reported near North Eugene High School.



## **Response**

The City responds in a variety of ways to bias activity. The response is victim directed and protects victim confidentiality when requested. Various people provide support depending on the circumstances and the express wishes of the victim. The Equity and Human Rights Office, Neighborhood Services, Eugene Police, the Human Rights Commission, and community agencies regularly collaborate on response in the form of letters to the victims and their families, listening to victims' stories, Op-Ed articles and letters to the editor, hate free zone leafleting, alerts in neighborhood association newsletters and social media sites, assistance connecting victims with the media, and criminal investigation where warranted.

## **Conclusion and Next Steps**

It is critical to recognize that communities of color, and African Americans in particular, continued to be significantly impacted by bias activity in 2013 which is consistent with previous years. Race was the motivating factor in 42% of all reported bias crimes and 56% of all reported bias incidents. Incidents reported based on sexual orientation were more than double that reported in 2012. It is also worth noting that there was a higher level of violence reported based on sexual orientation than other protected classes. There are several explanations for the increase in reported activity based on sexual orientation, and as with all bias activity it is likely that both crimes and incidents are under-reported. However, increased guidance for officers responding to and appropriately flagging and routing bias crimes likely had a positive impact. Vandalism and graffiti with bias elements also seem to have been captured in a more consistent manner than in 2012 and overall communication between EPD and Equity and Human Rights has been streamlined with excellent results. The notification process is more timely and seamless and has allowed for more sensitive and coordinated responses to community need.

Continuing to pay attention to geographical context for bias activity has helped identify areas that are experiencing bias activity and direct resources more efficiently. More effective, targeted response in 2013 has involved close coordination between City staff, community leaders in our neighborhoods, schools, businesses, community agencies, and the Human Rights Commission.

Cooperation between the Equity and Human Rights Office and Eugene Police in generating this integrated report has also led to fruitful discussion, more

coordinated information sharing, and evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the City's current Hate and Bias Incident Response Plan. This plan was created in 2010. In light of experience gained during the first three years of implementation staff have drafted an update to the response plan which is included with this report for review.

For Eugene to be safe, vibrant, and welcoming it is essential to continue to provide support to victims of bias activity and develop and implement strategies to reduce this activity and the underlying attitudes that perpetuate it. It is also critical to create an environment where it is understood that bias activity is not welcome and will be met with strong community and organizational response.

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/536>

<sup>ii</sup> Equity and Human Rights Office Bias Activity Log, compiled February 13, 2014

<sup>iii</sup> Equity and Human Rights Office Bias Activity Log, compiled February 13, 2014

<sup>iv</sup> EPD ICAPBIAS Report, January – December 2013, queried January 23, 2014

<sup>v</sup> EPD ICAPBIAS Report, January-December 2012, queried January 25, 2013

<sup>vi</sup> 4.731 Intimidation in the Second Degree

(1) A person commits the crime of intimidation in the second degree if the person:

(a) Tampers or interferes with property, having no right to do so nor reasonable ground to believe that the person has such right, with the intent to cause substantial inconvenience to another because of the person's perception of the other's race, color, religion, national origin or sexual orientation;

(b) Intentionally subjects another to offensive physical contact because of the person's perception of the other's race, color, religion, national origin or sexual orientation; or

(c) Intentionally, because of the person's perception of race, color, religion, national origin or sexual orientation of another or of a member of the other's family, subjects such other person to alarm by threatening:

1. To inflict serious physical injury upon or to commit a felony affecting such other person, or a member of the person's family; or

2. To cause substantial damage to the property of the other person or of a member of the other person's family.

(2) For purposes of this section, "property" means any tangible personal property or real property, and "sexual orientation" means heterosexuality, homosexuality or bisexuality.

*(Section 4.731 added by Ordinance No. 18826, enacted July 13, 1981; amended by Ordinance No. 19462, enacted April 13, 1987, and Ordinance No. 19686, enacted May 14, 1990.)*

<sup>vii</sup> 4.780 Criminal Mischief in the Third Degree

A person commits the crime of criminal mischief in the third degree if, with intent to cause substantial inconvenience to the owner or to another person, and having no right to do so nor reasonable ground to believe that the person has such right, the person tampers or interferes with property of another.

*(Section 4.780 amended by Ordinance No. 19462, enacted April 13, 1987.)*

4.782 Criminal Mischief in the Second Degree

A person commits the crime of criminal mischief in the second degree if:

(a) The person violates section 4.780, and as a result thereof, damages property in an amount exceeding \$100; or (b) Having no right to do so nor reasonable ground to believe that the person has such right, the person intentionally damages property of another, or, the person recklessly damages property of another in an amount exceeding \$100.

*(Section 4.782 added by Ordinance No. 19462, enacted April 13, 1987.)*